

**TRANSLATION**      PATENT COOPERATION TREATY  
**PCT**

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**  
 (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>PCT-NC0403</b>	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. <b>PCT/JP2004/013637</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>17.09.2004</b>	Priority date (day/month/year) <b>29.09.2003</b>
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC <b>B29C33/72</b>		
Applicant <b>NIPPON CARBIDE KOGYO KABUSHIKI KAISHA</b>		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</li> <li>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</li> <li>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of <u>1</u> sheets, as follows:                             <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</td> </tr> </table> </li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		<input type="checkbox"/>	sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).	<input type="checkbox"/>	sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.												
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<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:                     <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I      Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II      Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III      Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV      Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI      Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII      Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII      Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table> </li> </ol>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I      Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II      Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III      Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV      Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V      Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI      Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII      Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII      Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/013637

## Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
  - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- the international application as originally filed/furnished  
 the description:  
 pages 1-13 as originally filed/furnished  
 pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- the claims:  
 nos. 1-5, 8, 9 as originally filed/furnished  
 nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19  
 nos.\* 6, 7 received by this Authority on 27.07.2005  
 nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- the drawings:  
 sheets 1-7 as originally filed/furnished  
 sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_  
 sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_
- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3.  The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
  - the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
  - the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
  - the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
4.  This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_
  - the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_
  - the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_
  - the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_
  - any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

	International application No. PCT/JP2004/013637
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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
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## 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims _____	YES
	Claims <u>1-9</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
	Claims _____	NO

## 2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

Document 1: JP 2001-079857 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 27 March 2001, claim 1; paragraphs [0016], [0018] [0024], [0028] and [0032]; and fig. 2

Document 2: JP 2002-225040 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 14 August 2002, paragraphs [0013], [0019] and [0039], and fig. 5

Document 3: JP 10-67021 A (Nitto Denko Corp.), 10 March 1998, paragraph [0003]

The inventions set forth in claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 (claim 1; paragraphs [0016], [0018] [0024], [0028] and [0032]; and fig. 2) and document 2 (paragraphs [0013], [0019] and [0039], and fig. 5) cited in the international search report. It would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of applying the configuration wherein a mask sheet is provided to the bottom side of the cleaning material in order to prevent the cleaning resin from entering and clogging the vacuum suction holes during the cleaning of the single sided mold, which is disclosed in document 2, when configuring the bottom-side sheet of the invention that is disclosed in document 1.

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Furthermore, document 1 (paragraph [0018])

indicates that it is acceptable to interpose a nonwoven cellulose fabric, which has been impregnated with a cleaning resin, between the surface layer and the elastic layer; therein, said nonwoven cellulose fabric corresponds to the cleaning member in the invention that is set forth in the present application.

In addition, the description of the present application (paragraph [0008]) presents an example wherein the sheet-like base material is configured from a nonwoven fabric, and document 1 also indicates that the sheet-like base material is configured from a nonwoven fabric; therefore, it is likely that the nonwoven fabric in the invention disclosed in document 1 also exhibits a pore volume ratio of over 70%. In addition, given that the purpose of the die cleaning sheet is to apply a cleaning component to the die, it would have been obvious that it is necessary for the nonwoven fabric to have a constant clearance; therefore, it would have been simple to select a sheet-like base material with a pore volume ratio of 70% or more by merely choosing the most appropriate material from among a range of well-known materials.

The invention set forth in claim 3 does not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1, document 2 and document 3 (paragraph [0003]) cited in the international search report. The technical feature whereby an unvulcanized rubber material is included within the cleaning material is well known, as disclosed in document 3, for example.

The inventions set forth in claims 6 to 8 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 1 and

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**Box No. V**      **Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

document 2. Thermal adhesion, pressure adhesion, adhesion by means of deformation and adhesion by means of double-sided tape, an adhesive or the like are all methods that are commonly used by a person skilled in the art in order to adhere a plurality of sheet-like base materials.